

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT PP-86  
AUTHORIZING  
WASHINGTON WATER POWER COMPANY  
TO CONSTRUCT, CONNECT, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN  
ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION FACILITIES ACROSS  
THE INTERNATIONAL BORDER BETWEEN  
THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

BACKGROUND

On October 15, 1987, the Washington Water Power Company (WWP) filed an application with the Department of Energy (DOE) for a Presidential permit pursuant to Executive Order 10485, as amended by Executive Order 12038, to construct, connect, operate, and maintain a double-circuit 230-kilovolt (kV), overhead transmission line which will cross the U.S. international border near the city of Trail, British Columbia, Canada, and the town of Northport, Washington, and extend to the planned Marshall substation located in the vicinity of Spokane, Washington. As originally proposed, the two circuits would have an electrical transfer capability of 800 to 1,000 megawatts (MW), would extend approximately 118 miles from the U.S.-Canadian border to the planned Marshall substation, and would require all new rights-of-way.

The DOE determined that the granting of a Presidential permit for the proposed interconnection would constitute "a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment" and, therefore, prepared an environmental impact statement (EIS) in compliance with the provisions of the National

Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations. In May 1988 the DOE conducted public scoping meetings in Spokane, Colville, and Newport, Washington, to identify major issues and concerns that should be addressed in the EIS.

In January 1990 the DOE published and distributed approximately 650 copies of a draft EIS to interested individuals and agencies, followed by public hearings held in Spokane, Newport, and Colville, Washington, in February 1990.

On March 2, 1991, WWP formally notified the DOE that the company was amending its permit application. The amended application revised the proposed route of the project and changed the termination point to WWP's existing Beacon substation, located northeast of Spokane, instead of WWP's originally proposed termination point at the planned Marshall substation, located southwest of Spokane. The amendment also shortened the overall length of the project to 93 miles, but added approximately 5.6 miles of new route.

As a result of these changes, the DOE prepared a supplement to the draft EIS that addressed the new proposed 5.6 miles of route. The supplemental draft EIS also compared the new proposed route (international boundary to Beacon Substation) to the other alternatives previously analyzed in the draft EIS, including the originally proposed route which was to terminate at the planned

Marshall Substation. The DOE published and distributed approximately 500 copies of the supplemental draft EIS to individuals and agencies in February 1992. A 68-day comment period allowed interested parties to submit comments on the contents of the document and the overall project. DOE received a total of 20 written comments during and following the comment period. Substantive comments and responses to concerns raised about the supplemental draft EIS are presented in the final EIS. DOE published and distributed 500 copies of the final EIS on November 13, 1992.

The DOE also has assessed the impacts of the proposed project on the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system. In this review the DOE determined that there would be no impairment of the electric system reliability as long as the interconnection is not operated at an import level above 800 MW. The DOE further concluded that imports in excess of 800 MW should only be accomplished after the installation of series reactive compensation. The DOE has prepared a staff reliability analysis, dated November 27, 1992, which documents these conclusions.

#### FINDING

Having assessed the potential environmental impacts and having determined that the proposed action would not impair the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system, and since the Secretary of State by letter dated January 11, 1993, and the

Secretary of Defense by letter dated January 14, 1993, have concurred with the Presidential permit being granted, the Acting Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy finds that the issuance of the Presidential permit, as provided hereafter, is appropriate and consistent with the public interest.

#### AUTHORIZATION

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order No. 10485, as amended by Executive Order No. 12038, and the Rules and Regulations thereunder (Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, section 205.320 et seq.), permission hereby is granted to Washington Water Power Company to construct, connect, operate, and maintain at the international border of the United States and Canada, one double-circuit 230-kV, overhead transmission line as further described in Article 2 below, upon the following conditions:

Article 1. The facilities herein described shall be subject to all conditions, provisions and requirements of this permit. This permit may be modified or revoked by the President of the United States without notice, or by the DOE after public notice, and may be amended by the DOE after proper application thereto.

Article 2. The facilities covered by and subject to this permit shall include the following facilities and all supporting structures within the right-of-way occupied by such facilities:



One double-circuit, alternating current (AC), 230-kV transmission line constructed from WWP's existing Beacon Substation located northeast of Spokane, Washington, to the international border between the United States and Canada, (known as the Eastern Alternative and described in section 2.1 of the final EIS) and there connecting with the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority 230-kV system.

These facilities are more specifically shown and described in the application filed by the applicant on March 2, 1991.

Article 3. The subject facilities shall not be used to import electric energy at a rate in excess of 800 MW without the installation of appropriate series reactive compensation. WWP is required to operate the existing and planned system in a safe and reliable manner according to operating guidelines established by the Western Systems Coordinating Council.

Article 4. No change shall be made in the facilities covered by this permit or in the authorized operation of these facilities unless such change has been approved by the DOE.

Article 5. WWP or its agent shall at all times maintain the facilities covered by this permit in a satisfactory condition so that all requirements of the National Electric Safety Code in effect at the time of construction are fully met.

Article 6. The operation and maintenance of the facilities covered by this permit shall be subject to the inspection and approval of a properly designated representative of the DOE, who shall be an authorized representative of the United States for such purposes. WWP shall allow officers or employees of the United States with written authorization for free and unrestricted access into, through and across any lands occupied by these facilities in the performance of their duties.

Article 7. WWP shall investigate any complaints from nearby residents of radio or television interference identifiably caused by the operation of the facilities covered by this permit. WWP shall take appropriate action as necessary to mitigate such situations. Complaints from individuals residing within one-half mile of the center of the transmission circuit are the only ones which must be resolved. WWP shall maintain written records of all complaints received and of the corrective actions taken.

Article 8. The United States shall not be responsible or liable: for damages to or loss of the property of, or injuries to, persons; for damages to, or loss of the facilities covered by this permit; or for damages to, or loss of the property of, or injuries to the person of WWP officers, agents, servants or employees, or of others who may be on said premises; any of which may arise from or be incident to the exercise of the privileges

granted herein; and WWP shall hold the United States harmless from any and all such claims.

Article 9. WWP shall arrange for the installation and maintenance of appropriate metering equipment to record permanently the hourly flow of all electric energy transmitted between Canada and the United States over the facilities authorized herein. WWP shall prepare, maintain, and preserve complete and accurate records concerning the transfer of such electric energy; and shall furnish the DOE an annual report which will be due on or before February 15th of each year, detailing the transmission of such electric energy, as follows: (1) the gross amount of kilowatt-hours of electric energy received ; (2) the maximum hourly rate of transmission in kilowatts; and (3) the consideration paid for such energy during each month of the preceding calendar year.

Article 10. Neither this permit nor the facilities covered by this permit, or any part thereof, shall be transferable or assignable, except in the event of the involuntary transfer of the facilities by the operation of law. In the case of such an involuntary transfer, this permit shall continue in effect for a period of 60 days and then shall terminate unless an application for a new permit pursuant to Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, section 205.323, has been received by the DOE. Upon receipt by the DOE of such an application, this existing permit

shall continue in effect pending a decision on the new application. During this decision period, the facilities authorized herein shall remain substantially the same as before the transfer.

Article 11. Upon the termination, revocation or surrender of this permit, the 230-kV ac transmission line, which is owned, connected, operated, and maintained by WWP and described in Article 2 of this permit, shall be removed within such time as DOE may specify and at the expense of WWP. If WWP fails to remove such facilities and/or any portion thereof authorized by this permit, DOE may direct that such actions be taken for the removal of the facilities or the restoration of the land associated with the facilities at the expense of WWP. WWP shall have no claim for damages by reason of such possession, removal or repair. However, upon a showing by WWP that certain facilities authorized herein, such as portions of its rights-of-way or the transmission line within the United States, are useful to other utility operations within the bounds of the United States, the DOE will not require that those facilities be removed and the land restored to its original condition upon termination of the international interconnection.


Article 12. A final Environmental Impact Statement entitled "Washington Water Power/B.C. Hydro Transmission Interconnection Project" (DOE/EIS 0141) was produced as a requirement for



granting this Presidential permit. The mitigative measures are incorporated by reference and the applicant is required to implement those measures specified in Section 2.3 and Section 4.9 of DOE/EIS 0141 as they apply to the corridor and facilities described in Article 2 above.

This permit shall be valid upon receipt by the DOE of the Testimony of Acceptance properly executed.

In witness whereof, I, Jack S. Siegel, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy, hereunto sign my name, this 8 day of March, 1993, in the city of Washington, District of Columbia.

  
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Jack S. Siegel  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
for Fossil Energy